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Coordination, programme and other questions: long-term programme of support for Haiti

Letter dated 27 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

With reference to the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2005/66) I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 6 June 2005 from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti, Gérard Latortue (see annex).

My Government would like the text of this letter and its annex to be considered as a supplement to the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group.

(*Signed*) Léo **Mérorès**

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Annex to the letter dated 27 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to inform you that the Government has taken note with satisfaction of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. We appreciate all that has been done thus far and the friendly atmosphere in which our relationship is evolving. We are fully aware of the fact that in responding to Haiti's request for a long-term programme this is only the third time such a thing has been done. The process is somewhat experimental and there is, as yet, no long list of good practices on which to draw. We will have to rely on our willpower and good judgement to guide us to a successful conclusion.

Fortunately — and this is a fact — our determination to succeed is evident. We congratulate the Ad Hoc Advisory Group for what it has done thus far and we hope that it will continue its work. I have the honour to request that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's mandate be renewed so that the Group may continue to make progress and bring us closer to our goal.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group is correct in its evaluation of the social, political and economic situation in Haiti; we agree with its assessment that, notwithstanding the difficult situation in which Haitians find themselves and which they themselves will have to resolve — with, of course, the help of their partners — opportunities do exist. Haiti subscribed to the Millennium Development Goals; it did so deliberately and not just as a formality. We are fully aware that our resource constraints are such that our chances of loosening poverty's grip may be slim and that achievement of the first seven Goals is intrinsically linked to the eighth, namely establishment of international partnerships.

Our approach, therefore, is self-explanatory: to build a credible, simple, sound and well-articulated plan and to get our partners to help us implement it. If we manage to prepare a very good plan, and convince ourselves and our friends that we have a very good chance of succeeding, then there is every likelihood that we will do so. Whence our decision to put our long-term programme under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

We support the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on the role to be played by the Council. We would simply like to warn you so that you do not underestimate what following up the activities grouped under the headings disarmament, demobilization and reintegration will involve.

Haiti is currently facing a situation of insecurity that is difficult to comprehend and to resolve for it arises from many sources. It will require not only disarming belligerents who are part of an organized structure, following a peace agreement, but above all battling the gangs that were armed by the previous regime and that continue to be in the latter's pay and to engage both in terrorist operations and in banditry, such as kidnapping.

While also supporting the recommendations on the role of donors, we would like to know the first elements of the strategy concerning relations with donors and the ultimate goal in mobilizing them.

We, for our part, have made arrangements to establish a strategic think tank whose mandate will be to identify the content of the long-term programme and to

work in close collaboration with the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. The think tank will be made up of five members chosen from among high-level generalists with extensive knowledge of the country's social, economic and political problems. Their first task will be to follow up the efforts of the teams mandated to produce national strategies and development plans. In particular, they will monitor the implementation of the Interim Cooperation Framework, the mission entrusted by the Government to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the activities and consultations envisaged in the preparation of a national poverty reduction strategy.

The think tank will work in close collaboration with the technical departments and units of the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation and the planning units of the sectoral ministries to work out a vision of long-term sustainable development and to operationalize that vision in the short and medium term. In addition, it will support the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation in its efforts to strengthen the national planning system with a view to improving the coordination of external aid.

The think tank will be strategic in character and orientation. It will focus on elements that represent over the long term threats or opportunities and that are likely to have an irreversible and profound influence — one way or the other — on the future of Haitians. Elements that are often missing from national policies or that are mentioned for reference purposes only, due to the lack of resources or to the length of interventions — these are the elements that it will study. The think tank's mandate will be to identify the obstacles that must be removed or the paths that must be taken in order to do so, and also the necessary strategies and investments.

Members of the think tank will be appointed by the Minister of Planning and External Cooperation with the approval of the Prime Minister. They will have to prepare — within 60 days at most — a programme of work and a budget that will be submitted to the authorities. The programme and budget will be discussed with the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti; the latter may make suggestions and will have to help identify the modalities of cooperation.

Once again expressing the hope that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's mandate will be extended and assuring you that we, for our part, will do everything within our power to achieve our goal, I take this opportunity to extend to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Gérard **Latortue**